

Message Text

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TAGS: OINT, PDEV, UK

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH LABOR PARTY FORMALLY LAUNCHED

REF: (A) LONDON 452; (B) LONDON 623

1. FOUR HUNDRED "PASSIONATE" SCOTS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY JANUARY 18 TO BRING SCOTTISH LABOR PARTY (SLP -- REF A) INTO BEING' CONFIRMING DISSIDENT LABOR MP JIM SILLARS' FAIT ACCOMPLI. SLP FOUNDING CONFERENCE ATTRACTED ATTENTION OF NATIOLAL AND REGIONAL MEDIA, LESSENING INITIAL IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT'S "EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN" ON DEVO-LUTION WHITE PAPER WHICH KICKED OFF SAME WEEKEND.

2. SILLARS, DELIVERING CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, OUT-LINED SLP'S PMLICY AIMS: -- FULL LEGISLATIVE CONTROL OF SCOTTISH AFFAIRS WITHIN UK FRAMEWORK, CONTROL OF SCOT-TISH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY IN SCOTLAND (SUBJECT TO "MACRO-ECONOMIC DECISIONS TAKEN IN LONDON"), EXPANSION OF NATIONALIZED SECTOR BY "SEEKING OUT CHINKS IN ARMOUR OF MULTI-NATIONALS," AND EXTENSION OF WORKERS CONTROL. HE ALSO AFFIRMED EARLIER ANNOUNCED

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DECISION OF LABOR MP JOHN ROBERTSON TO CAST HIS LOT WITH

SLP AND CALLED FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RENAISSANCE OF SCOTLAND. SILLARS ALSO ATTACKED SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF LABOR PARTY (QCLP), CHARGING IT HAD BEEN "DEBAUCHED BY CAREERISM, ITS IDEALISM RUINED BY WAVE AFTER WAVE OF WILSONIAN ORAGMATISM." TO CLINCH HIS EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO SLP SUOPORTERS AND UNDERSCORE HIS INDEPENDENT BONA FIDES, SILLARQ ALSO ANNOUNCED HE WOULD SUOPORT SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (SNP) AMENDMENT JANUARY 19 TO GOVERNMENT'S "TAKE NOTE'.MOTION ON WHITE PAPER WHICH CONDEMNS ABSENCE OF ECONOMIC PMWERS IN DEVOLUTION PROOOALS (REF B AND SEOTEL).

3. LABOR PARTY'S REGIONAL ORGANIZER FOR SCOTLAND, JAMES MCGRANDLE, JANUARY 19 TOLD PRESS THAT WHILE SLP TURNOUT FOR FOUNDING AONFERENCE HAD EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS OF SILLARS AND ROBERTSON, LABOR PARTY WOULD TAKE NO ACTION TO EXPEL THEM. HE WENT ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCY PARTIES (SOUTH AYRSHIRE AND PAISLEY) WOULD BE MEETING SOON TO SELECT OFFICIAL LABOR CANDIDATES FOR NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

4. LABOR GENERAL SECRETARY RON HAYWARD, IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, QTRESSED SLP'S POTENTIAL IMPACT AS POLITICAL "SPOILER," NOTING THAT NEW PARTY HAD CAPACITY TO BLOCK FUTURE LABOR MAJORITY IN GENERAL ELECTIONS. LABOR PARTY, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE NO ACTION TO PRECIPITATE FORMAL BREAK WITH SLP, AT LEAST AT THIS TIME. HAYWARD SAW HIS OWN ROLE AS HELPING SILLARS BACK OFF LIMB, ON WHICH HE HAD PLACED HIMSELF, TO SECURITY OF LABOR PARTY "TRUNK." WHILE SILLARS' LIMB SEEMS TO BE CRACKING, HAYWARD WILL TRY TO PROP IT UP BY RESISTING EFFORTS TO EXPEL SLP MEMBERS. FIRST PEAL CRUNCH, HAYWARD ACKNOWLEDGED, WOULD PROBABLY COME AT ANNUAL SCLP CONFERENCE IN MARCH. SHOULD LABOR PARTY/SLP BREAK BECOME FINAL, AS IT WOULD IF SLP RAN CANDIDATEQ IN GENERAL ELECTION, HAYWARD WAS CONFIDENT OFFICIAL CANDIDATE COULD DEFEAT ROBERTSON (WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS POLITICAL LIGHTWEIGHT, AN ASSESSMENT IN WHICH WE CONCUR), BUT WOULD HAVE HARD TIME WITH SILLARS. HAYWARD DID NOT BELIEVE GOVERNMENT COULD OR SHOULD SEEK TO LURE SILLAPS BACK TO LABOR FOLD BY INCREASING ECONOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIC POWERS TO BE GIVEN SCOTTISH ASSEMBLY.

5. COMMENT: SUCCESS AND RHETORIC OF SLP CONFERENCE WAS HEADY STUFF FMR DISSIDENTS. AS WE HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, HOWETER, SLP'S LONG-TERM PROSOECTS DO NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY GOOD.

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